

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-03 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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EUR/WE-MR. MARSH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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TAGS:ICRC, PARM

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

REF.: (A) STATE 277248; (B) LONDON 16574; (C) OTTAWA 4087;

(D) PARIS 30139

PARIS FOR HUMPHREYS AND VREELAND

1. WE HAVE NO RESPONSE TO REF (A) FROM YOU. CANADIANS TOLD THEIR PARIS EMBASSY THAT WE WOULD CONTACT GIRARD ABOUT CHANGES IN DATES THEY HAD SUGGESTED TO US, BUT THEY WERE TOLD BY GIRARD THAT U.S. EMBASSY HAD NOT SUGGESTED NEW DATES OF JANUARY 14 AND 15. FOREIGN MINISTRY IN OTTAWA PHONED DEPT TO SAY THAT GIRARD TOLD CANADIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS THAT DATES OF JANUARY 14 AND 15 ACCEPTABLE FOR WASH-
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INGTON CONSULTATIONS AND THAT JANUARY 13 ACCEPTABLE FOR

CANADIAN-FRENCH BILATERALS IN OTTAWA. (CANADIANS STRONGLY PREFER LATER DATES BUT STILL WILLING TO ACCEPT EARLIER DATES IF NECESSARY, IF FRENCH GO ALONG.)

2. IN MEANTIME, WE RECEIVED REF (B) FROM LONDON TELLING US BRITISH WERE RELUCTANT TO SWITCH DATES. BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ALSO TOLD US OF DIFFICULTIES BRITISH WOULD HAVE IN SWITCHING DATES. IN VIEW OF THIS, WE URGENTLY REQUEST THAT YOU DISCUSS MATTER WITH GIRARD. WHICH OF TWO SETS OF DATES DO FRENCH PREFER FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS? WOULD FRENCH, IF NECESSARY, STILL BE ABLE TO COME TO WASHINGTON ON JANUARY 13 AND 14, AS THEY HAD INDICATED IN REF (D)?

PLEASE INFORM FRENCH OF BRITISH (AND CANADIAN) VIEWS. WOULD FRENCH PLAN, IN EITHER EVENT, TO VISIT OTTAWA FOR ONE DAY PRIOR TO WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS (I.E., ON JANUARY 9 IF CONSULTATIONS HELD JANUARY 13 AND 14; OR ON JANUARY 13 IF CONSULTATIONS HELD JANUARY 14 AND 15)? DO FRENCH FIND CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR 1 1/2 DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS (INSTEAD OF 2 FULL DAYS WE HAD SUGGESTED) ACCEPTABLE (NOTE THAT BRITISH HAD SUGGESTED TO DEPT IN WASHINGTON THAT CONSULTATIONS BE EXTENDED TO COVER 3 FULL DAYS)?

3. PLEASE RESPOND DECEMBER 23, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. AS ONE SET OF DATES WILL NOT PLEASE BRITISH AND OTHER SET WILL NOT PLEASE CANADIANS, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FRENCH VIEWS BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION. CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY (MILLER) SAID HE WOULD PHONE DEPT (BETTAUER) ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 23, TO FIND OUT WHAT FINAL DECISION WAS ON DATES FOR CONSULTATIONS. SISCO

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